

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 01621 220741Z
ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SNM-02 DEAE-00 AID-05 IO-13
NSC-05 IGA-02 /038 W
-----220747Z 035211 /10
R 220635Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1002

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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: SNAR AG JO
SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL TRAINING- CUSTOMS

REF: STATE 053153

1. AT NOVEMBER 1976 RAWALPINDI CONFERENCE, STATE AND CUSTOMS OFFICIALS ENGAGED IN NCARCOTICS INTERDICTION COMPLAINED THAT OVERSEAS POSTS SOMETIMES SEND UNQUALIFIED CANDIDATES TO NARCOTICS CONTROL COURSES. IT WAS URGED THAT CANDIDATES NOT BE SENT JUST TO MAINTAIN POLITICALLY USEFUL TIES OR ENCOURAGE GENERAL IDEA OF TRAINING, ETC. WITH THAT STRESS IN MIND ON QUALIFICATIONS OF CANDIDATES FOR CUSTOMS TRAINING, EMBASSY JUDGEMENT IS THAT JORDANIANS CUSTOMS SERVICE WOULD BE UNABLE TO PROVIDE QUALIFIED PARTICIPATNS FOR SUBJECT COURSES.

2. JORDANIANS CUSTOMS SERVICE DOES NOT INTERCEPT NARCOTICS. CHIEF OF JORDANIAN PUBLIC SECURITY FORCES NARCOTICS BUREAU, LTC YUSEF GHAREYBEH, POINTS OUT THAT WHILE GOJ CUSTOMS OFFICIALS ARE IN THEORY RESPONSIBLE FOR NARCOTICS SEIZURES AT BORDERS, IN PRACTICE ALL SIZURES ARE MADE BY POLICE. REASON APPEARENTLY IS THAT ALL MATTERS RELATING TO NARCOTICS ARE SEEN AS FALLING UNDER POLICE JURISDICTION
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PARTICIARLY SINCE PROBLEM OF NARCOTICS SMUGGLING INVOLVES SENSITIVE POLITICAL OVERTONES WITH WHICH CUSTOMS OFFICIALS WOULD PREFER NOT TO BECOME INVOLVED. WE WOUL NOTE FOR EXAMPLE THAT ALTHOUGH USG HAS ARRANGED FOR US TRAINING OF JORDANIAN CUSTOMS OFFICIALS FOR LAST THREE YEARS CUSTOMS SERVICE HAS NEVER MADE A NARCOTICS SEIZURE.

3. ARGUMENT, OF COURSE CAN BE MADE THAT SUCH TRAINING INCULCATES CUSTOMS OFFICIALS WITH ATTITUDES FAVORABLE TO NARCOTICS INTERDICTION THUS SETTING STAGE FOR FUTURE PROGRAMS. WE HAVE SEEN LITTLE INDICATION HOWEVER THAT SUCH AHAS BEEN CASE IN JORDAN. LTC GHARBEBYBEH HAS STATED THAT HE DOES NOT CONSIDER GOJ CUSTOMS EMPLOYEES TO BE SERIOUSLY ENGAGED IN NARCOTICS INTERDICTION. IN ANY CASE, EMBASS CANNOT MAINTAIN THAT INTEREST IN NARCOTICS IN GAINING CURRENCY WITHIN CUSTOMS PARTICULARLY GIVEN LACK OF PERFORMANCE WITHIN JORDAN LAST YEARS PARTICIPANT COURSE. (WE ARE HOPEFUL OF CHANING THOSE ATTITUDES SOMEWHAT BY SENDING UNDERSECRETARY OF FINANCE FOR CUSTOMS TO US, THIS APRIL ON PROGRAM INCLUDING NARCOTICS MATTERS.)

4. COURSE TOPICS OUTLINED PARA TWO REFTEL WOULD BE FAR MOREUSEFUL FOR JNB OFFICERS TAN FOR CUSTOMS PERSONNEL DESPITE PROHIBITIONS PARA 3 AGAINST PARCIPATION IN COURSE OF "POLICE OR OTHER OFFICERS OCCUPIED IN NARCOTICS INVESTIGATIONS..." JNB IS ORGANIZATION THA IS ACTIVE AND HIGHLY MOTIVATED IN COMATING NARCOITS TRAFFIC IN JORDN AND ORGANIZATION WITH WHICH EMBASSY CONDUST NARCOTICS PROGRAM. ITS CHIEF IN INTERESTED IN SUBJECT TRAINING FOR HIS PERSONNEL. TRAINING FOR JNB OFFICIALS WOULD ENFORCE OUR OTHER NARCOTICS PROGRAMS WITH GOJ WITH A SERIOUSNESS THAT WOULD BE LACKING IF WE INSISTED ON ONLY CANDIDATES FROM CUSTOMS.
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5. REQUEST CONCURRENCE IN WAIVING PROHIBITIONS PARA 3 REFTEL IN ORDER TO ALLOW PARTICPATION OF JNB OFFICERS. IF WAIVER NOT POSSIBLE , EMBASSY HAS NOT NOMINATIONS TO MAKE AT THIS TIME.
PICKERING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, PERSONNEL TRAINING, DRUG CONTROL, CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977AMMAN01621
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770097-0639
Format: TEL
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770337/aaaabfsc.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 65fe34b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION TRSE
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 53153
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3041167
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL TRAINING- CUSTOMS
TAGS: SNAR, AG, JO, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/65fe34b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009